

The McAdo

or, The Town of Ballydew

THE CAST *(In order of appearance)*

The Gilbert Cast

The Sullivan Cast

Lanky Doug	Seth Tychon Steidl	Graham Remple
Pischtusch	Jeff Erickson.....	Trevor Woggon
Pubagh	Waldyn Benbenek	Joe Allen
Coco.....	Sam Vinitzky	Brandt Roberts
Wynn Somme	Maggie Benham	Mary Kettlewell
Pretty Jean.....	Delaney Downs	Therese Kulas
Wee Jo	Mallory Rabehl.....	Ella Rose Katzenberger
Katie Shaw	Lara Trujillo	Deb Haas
The McAdo.....	Scott Benson.....	Scott Gorman
Gow Tollard.....	Mike Tober	
Japple Laddie	Leo Proctor	

The Gilbert Cast

The Sullivan Cast

Friday, November 1st, 7:30 pm	Saturday, November 2nd, 7:30 pm
Sunday, November 3rd, 2:00 pm	Saturday, November 9th, 2:00 pm
Friday, November 8th, 7:30 pm	Sunday, November 10th, 2:00 pm
Saturday, November 9th, 7:30 pm	Friday, November 15th, 7:30 pm
Saturday, November 16th, 2:00 pm	Saturday, November 16th, 7:30 pm
Sunday, November 17th, 2:00 pm	Friday, November 22nd, 7:30 pm
Saturday, November 23rd, 7:30 pm	Sunday, November 24th, 2:00 pm

Members of the McAdo Clan and residents of Ballydew:

Adam Arnold	Mitch Engel	Dean Laurance
John Azbill-Salisbury	Maya Gitch	Eric Pasternack
Mary Mescher Benbenek	Jacob Gomez	Leo Andre Proctor
Sarah Brickeen	Mary Gregory	Mike Tober
Justin Cervantes	Stephen Hage	Angela Walberg
Kelly Danger	Shawn Holt	Natalie Wishcop
Theresa Drexler	Trenton Johnson	Bill Zadra*

* Ballydew Bagpiper

Setting: Courtyard outside of Coco's Estate in the town of Ballydew

There will be a 20-Minute Intermission

This production is dedicated to the memory of company member and House Manager, Fred Morrison.

~ Please turn off all cell phones ~

~ No eating or drinking (except water) is allowed in the theatre ~

~ No smoking is permitted in the building ~

~ The use of cameras or recording of any kind is strictly forbidden ~

The Gilbert & Sullivan Very Light Opera Company owes an extraordinary debt of gratitude to the members of **Gilbert and Sullivan Austin**, who graciously shared with our company their reimagined version of the operetta, set in Scotland and retitled, **The McAdo**. They were equally gracious in allowing us to further (and rather freely) adapt it for our production.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

“Necessity is the mother of invention.”

For some time, Gilbert & Sullivan companies have been setting *The Mikado* in different locales and making adjustments to keep this extraordinary work alive. The best examples of this approach have found a way to honor all the key elements that Savoyards hold dear – the truly hilarious libretto, clever lyrics, and outstanding music – while jettisoning the offensive elements associated with its original setting, Japan – yellowface (the practice of wearing makeup to appear Asian) being chief among the offensive challenges. *The McAdo* is the brainchild of Gilbert & Sullivan Austin (Texas, not Minnesota!). They have been kind enough to share their work and then generous enough to let me tinker further with it to add, among other things, a prologue that helps address the history of *The Mikado* without getting too dogmatic or didactic.

While comedy is fragile, Gilbert's story is surprisingly flexible and resilient. Not many changes were required for this re-setting of the work. Most of the changes we've made are actually the kind in which Gilbert indulged: nods to current events, prominent figures, and regional idiosyncrasies.

I'm so very happy you're here and I hope you enjoy our production of *The McAdo*! If you're able, a donation of any size will help us to continue to bring all of the G&S operettas to the Twin Cities with full chorus, full orchestra, and full hearts!

— Joe Andrews

SYNOPSIS

Lanky Doug, a strolling minstrel, arrives in the Scottish town of Ballydew, seeking the hand of the beautiful Wynn Somme. He learns that Wynn Somme, however, is already engaged to Coco, a cheap tailor, who has been unexpectedly raised to the rank of Lord High Executioner. Lanky Doug is crestfallen. Meanwhile, Coco learns from The McAdo that he must execute someone within a month or irretrievable ruin will befall the town. Coco hits on a precarious plan that allows him to fulfill his obligations while simultaneously resolving Lanky Doug's heartbreak. Complications ensue (of course) when elements of Lanky Doug's secret past begin to emerge, including Katie Shaw, an elderly lady of The McAdo's court who claims his hand in marriage. The arrival of The McAdo escalates matters even further. But in true Gilbertian fashion, the story comes to a satisfying – if circuitous – conclusion.

<p>Trigger Warning: <i>The McAdo</i> includes discussions of suicide. If you or anyone in your life is experiencing thoughts of suicide, you are encouraged to call 988, the National Suicide & Crisis Lifeline.</p>

PRODUCTION STAFF

Stage Director Joe Andrews
Music Director Randal A. Buikema
Assistant Music Director..... Jean Orbison Van Heel
Stage Manager Kate Bender
Set Designer / Scenic Artist Wendy Waszut-Barrett
Stage Carpenter..... Andrew Barrett
Costume Designer..... Barb Portinga
Lighting Designer Carl Schoenborn
Choreographer Brandyn Tapio
Props Designer..... Laura Long
Assistant Stage Managers Inga Capistrant-Kinney, Brianna Sullivan
Hair and Make-up Kelly Danger
Additional Arrangements & Orchestrations..... Trevor Woggon
Prologue Concept & Content..... Joe Andrews
Prologue Visuals..... Anthony Rohr
Alternate Lyrics for “I’ve Got a Little List” and
“A More Humane McAdo” Joe Andrews
Follow Spot Operator..... Liam Trujillo Hage
Live Streaming Audio & Visual Waldyn Benbenek, Alexander Gerchak
Mitchell Rabehl, Douglas Johnson
Wardrobe Supervisors..... Claire Bias, Jo Pasternack
Set Construction Crew Volunteers and cast members
Rehearsal Pianists Jean Orbison Van Heel, Brian Chan
Poster Design Tom McGregor, Mary Olson
Lobby Display & Photography Stephen Hage
House Manager / Ticketing..... Steve Schellenberg
Phone Box Office..... Steve Schellenberg, and cast members
Flyer, Program, and Ticket Preparation Richard Rames
House Staff Recruitment..... Lowell Rice

The Board:

Producer Stephen Hage
Labour Pool Coordinator..... Kelly Danger
Publicity Waldyn Benbenek
Therese Kulas
Treasurer John Orbison
Secretary..... Lowell Rice
Chorus Representatives Tom Berg, Justin Cervantes, Mallory Rabehl
Orchestra Representative..... Barb Hovey

ORCHESTRA

Conductor Randal A. Buikema
Orchestra Manager / Librarian Lorine Menzhuber
Violin I Victoria Athmann (*Concertmaster*), Derick Rehurek
Jill Lestina-Warnest, Sue Bennefeld,
Karen Kozak, Amy Letson
Violin II Lorine Menzhuber, Roxanne Cornell
Betsy Lofgren, Karen Neinstadt, Jonathan Flory
Viola Ann Bur, Laura Bidgood, Aija Ronis
Teresa Mager, Gretchen Cerny
Cello Sara Hertz, Aaron Barrett
David Downing, Karin Holmberg Kimble, Hayley Zacheis
String Bass..... Benjamin Kitt, Jason Anderson
Flute..... Suzanne Benson, Nancy Hagfors, Holly MacDonald
Clarinet John Orbison, Ken Gellerman
Barb Hovey, Barbara Sabal
Oboe Donna Votino, Lorelei Giddings, Eric Laska
Bassoon Elizabeth Brandt, Alice Anderson
Gene Scholtens, Devin Dolquist
Horn..... Michael Engh, Bob Olsen, Ken Lovely
Trumpet Pete Berg, Doug Snapp, Mandy French
Trombone Charles Watt, Samantha Timanus, Cole Blackett
Percussion..... Charley Rich, Kat Felicis Ioco
Keyboard Jean Orbison Van Heel

GLOSSARY (*in order of occurrence*)

ACT I:

Clan McAdo – An actual Scottish clan. The name McAdo is derived from the Gaelic surname Mac Adaidh, which means son of Adam. The surname McAdo was first found in Perthshire, a former county in the present-day Council Area of Perth and Kinross, in central Scotland, in the thirteenth century. Their home and clan seat was Strathardle at Petcarene.

Ballydew – A whimsical Scots version of the original Titipu, which was Gilbert's whimsical version of the actual Japanese town of Chichibu

dirk to spar – long-bladed thrusting dagger, a personal sidearm of Highlanders

serried ranks assembled – shoulder to shoulder

We'll heave the capstan round – a manually operated reel for hauling in ropes aboard a ship (usually the anchor)

Her anchor's a-trip and her helm's a-lee – A-trip means clear of mud and ready to be hauled aboard. A-lee means away from the wind; ready for making sail.

and a rumbelow – nonsense word used in many sea-chanties

to lay aloft – to climb up into the rigging in order to raise or lower sails

unless connubially linked – matrimonially (i.e., unless married)

Pre-Adamite ancestry – before Adam (and Eve); *really old*

I, a salaried minion! – servile underling

you very imperfect ablutioner – Ablution is the act of washing one's self. The implication is that Lanky Doug smells bad.

cut a dash on their wedding day – put on a showy display, to dance

I don't say that all these distinguished people couldn't be squared – bribed

freed from its genius tutelary – guardian spirit, guiding influence

Esplanade – a level open stretch of paved or grassy ground, especially one designed for walking – or concerts – along a shore

a Tremendous Swell – a very impressively distinguished person, a VIP

My father, the Lucius Junius Brutus of his race – A Roman consul (500 B.C.) who condemned his two sons to death, for their plotting to restore the monarchy

interrupted an apostrophe – an exclamatory speech to a person or thing

With grief condign – suitable

in a dull, dark dock – small enclosed space, or cell (originally, an animal cage)

a cheap and chippy chopper – the headsman's axe, apparently not of the best quality

Oh blind, that seest no equipoise – counterbalancing factor

Peas and carrots – words used very quietly by actors to look as if they are engaged in conversation on stage

I'll spoil your gay gambado – caper, from the French gambade, a leap or spring

Act II:

He glories all effulgent – Giving off a flood of light

though the tocsin sound ere long – a warning bell

Scots wha' hae wi' Wallace bled, an' Scots wham Bruce has aften led – The opening two lines of Robert Burns poem, "Scots Wha' Hae," written in 1793. It was considered Scotland's unofficial national anthem for many years. The song resembles a speech given by Robert Bruce in 1314 before the Battle of Bannockburn.

make each prisoner pent – locked up

and gurgled and guggled – a bubbling, choking noise

I drew my snickersnee – a long knife or small sword (from the Dutch)

compassing the death of the heir apparent – contriving, bringing about or becoming involved in any way

give artistic verisimilitude – appearance of truth

Cock-and-a-bull stories – unbelievable boastful fictions, from old fables in which animals carry on human conversations

Is this a time for airy persiflage? – light banter, from the French, *persifler*, to whistle

a little tom-tit – a small bird of the tit family, similar to chickadees

Dicky-bird – any small bird

from the Congo or the Niger – The general region of central, west and northwest Africa. There are actually no tigers in the Congo or the Niger as they are not indigenous to Africa, but India.

a man is told off to be killed – counted off, or selected, as an officer might from a line of soldiers

CONTRIBUTORS

True Philanthropists (\$1000 and over)

Patricia Fishel ❖ Stephen Hage and Lara Trujillo ❖ Historic Stage Services LLC (in-kind) ❖ Holly MacDonald and John Orbison

Objects All Sublime (\$500 to \$999)

Jonathan Flory ❖ Bill and Nancy Jones

Personages of Noble Rank and Title (\$250 to \$499)

Anonymous (1) ❖ Phil Asgian ❖ Rolf and Christi Bolstad ❖ Paul and Pat Sackett ❖ Securian Financial Group ❖ Rebecca Shockley

Lords High Everything Else (\$100 to \$249)

Anonymous (1) ❖ Aroti Bayman ❖ Laurie Brooks ❖ Margaret Erickson and John Kast ❖ Marcy Frost and Mark Ratner ❖ David and Janet Hunter ❖ Ellen and Myron Just ❖ Margaret Kirkpatrick ❖ Sid and Anita Konikoff ❖ Rachel Levitt ❖ Michael Mack ❖ Karen and Peter Mattson ❖ Jan McLandsborough ❖ Jeffrey Petty ❖ John Renwick ❖ Steven and Mary Schier ❖ Michael Schoeberl ❖ Linnea Sodergren ❖ Steve, Michele and Kent Thompson

Second Trombones (up to \$100)

Anonymous (3) ❖ Mark Berge ❖ Karen and Phil Bergem ❖ Ruth Berman ❖ Tom Boese ❖ Ernest and Stephanie Brody ❖ Jean Carlson ❖ William Craig ❖ Craig Davis ❖ Gary DeKrey ❖ Ian Ellis in Memory of Jean and Jonah Ellis ❖ L. Peter Erickson ❖ Todd Ferwerda ❖ Martha Furr ❖ Grace Gilmer ❖ Wayne and Betty Gladfelter ❖ Pat and Larry Gottschalk ❖ Kathleen and Tony Green ❖ Linda Gries ❖ Hageman/Dorn Family ❖ Nils and Heather Halker ❖ Linda and Michael Hancher ❖ Glenn and Barb Orbison Hansen ❖ Liz and Van Hawn ❖ Kris and David Henderson ❖ Polly Henderson ❖ Marybeth Hoelzer ❖ Carol Hovey ❖ Hal Kanthor ❖ Marita Karlisch ❖ JG and TE Keehr ❖ Duane Kelling ❖ Susanna Kettlewell ❖ Eric Key ❖ Jane Kirtley ❖ Jan and Lou Leichter ❖ Gregg Lind ❖ Elizabeth Longhurst ❖ Thomas Love ❖ D Malfeld and C Currie ❖ John Miller ❖ Barbara and Larry Parks ❖ Pamela Pomputius ❖ Kathy Quick and Art Peterson ❖ Betsy Raasch-Gilman ❖ Margaret Rejto ❖ David Rounds ❖ Marian Rubenfeld ❖ Shirley Sailors ❖ George Stein ❖ Cherie Stofer ❖ Bryce and Adelia Thompson ❖ Sandy and Randy Uecker ❖ Martin Urberg ❖ Wes and Cheryl Volkenant ❖ Stephen and Lee Anne Willson

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Since its founding in 1979 by Dick Fishel and Jim Hart, the company has produced all the Gilbert and Sullivan operettas: *Trial By Jury* (1979, 1996, 2015), *Patience* (1980, 1990, 2002, 2012), *Iolanthe* (1981, 1992, 2004, 2016), *Princess Ida* (1982, 1993, 2006, 2018), *Ruddigore* (1983, 1995, 2009, 2020, 2022), *The Gondoliers* (1984, 1994, 2005, 2017), *The Mikado* (1985, 1996, 2007, 2019), *The Sorcerer* (1985, 1997, 2010, 2023), *The Pirates of Penzance* (1986, 1998, 2011, 2022), *The Yeomen of the Guard* (1987, 1999, 2013), *Utopia, Ltd.* (1988, 2008, 2024), *H.M.S. Pinafore* (1989, 2001, 2015, 2023), and *The Grand Duke* (1991, 2003, 2014). We've also presented Sullivan's *The Zoo* (1996), Offenbach's *Orpheus in the Underworld* (2000, 2017), and a concert version of Sullivan's *Rose of Persia* (2001)

In March 2025, the GSVLOC will present *Patience*.

The Gilbert & Sullivan Very Light Opera Company

presents

A New Adaptation of Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Mikado*

the Mikado

or The Town of Ballydew



DIRECTOR: JOE ANDREWS

MUSIC DIRECTOR: RANDAL BUIKEMA

NOVEMBER 1 - 24, 2024

THE CONN THEATRE, MINNEAPOLIS

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November 1 – November 24, 2024

The Conn Theater
1900 Nicollet Avenue South
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THE GILBERT & SULLIVAN VERY LIGHT OPERA COMPANY

P.O. Box 580172, Minneapolis MN 55458

Telephone: (651) 255-6947

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